

SUMMARY OF VISIONARY WORKSHOP

The Bureau of Land Management, along with prize design experts InnoCentive, held the *Wild Horse and Burro Prize* workshop on May 29th, 2014 in Washington, D.C. to explore goals and challenges in the management of wild horses and burros. This one-day workshop brought together experts from a broad range of perspectives in order to gather insights upon which to begin developing a prize-based competition, or 'Challenge', designed to boost progress towards the BLM's goal of healthy horses on healthy ranges.

In a room of such broad perspectives around such a complex issue, it was encouraging to see the overwhelmingly positive sentiment that we can, and should, begin to make an impact on this issue right away. The clear long term need is for a new solution for population growth suppression; it was emphasized though that in the meantime, effective use of the existing tools and opportunities is of critical importance.

Along this path, a number of key insights were offered. To arrive at an ideal state that includes a sustainable population managed on the range, without horses in off-range holding, there are real technical, social and organizational obstacles that must be addressed. Most plainly, **new treatments** are needed in the long term for adequate population growth suppression; the transfer of technologies from adjacent and even quite separate fields could make a much needed impact on the **delivery methods** of existing and future treatments, as well as in **collecting and leveraging information** to support science-driven management, which would lay the foundations for an improved approach to **public engagement and education** on the issue. This multi-pronged strategy ideally needs to be led by an **organization** that can partner with local stakeholders more effectively than ever before.

It is important to note that the insights generated here are of value not just for Challenges, but should be considered in the development of broader strategies as well. That said, it appears that many of the obstacles identified are particularly well suited to Challenges: if targeted appropriately, Challenges should be an effective tool for bringing in novel ideas and innovators; for transferring existing technology across from adjacent fields; for adding an incentive to bridge market failures of a (relatively) small potential market; and to attract public attention and advance education around the subject.

The workshop discussions again highlighted the complexity of the entangled issues around wild horse and burro populations. The need for short, medium and long term solutions indicates that a step-by-step, multi-pronged strategy will ultimately prove most effective. InnoCentive will work closely with BLM over the coming months to design a Challenge program that fits into this wider, multi-pronged approach.